



# THE

# POTRERO

# VIEW

April 2001

Volume XXXII, No. 3

FREE

## Thumbs Down on Proposed Power Plant

By Julia Segrove &  
Ruth Passen

What are the odds of public acceptance of the proposed Potrero Power Plant? About 100 to zero, based on the feelings expressed at a public forum held on March 15. The planned expansion of the Illinois and 23rd Street former PG&E Power Plant was solidly rejected and the gathering did endorse the Committee for a Better Environment's (CBE) view that air quality will be worsened by "an additional 625 tons of pollutants per year in the 40-year life of the proposed power plant."

A number of concerns among the attendees at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House meeting listed pollution in the forefront, along with a distrust of PG&E and the Mirant Corp. which has applied to expand the Potrero Power Plant by 540 megawatts.

The power plant owners, Mirant Corp., LLC, is a subsidiary of Southern Company (formerly Southern Energy). If the California Energy Commission (CEC) approves the expansion, Mirant Corp will own and operate the facility. The expansion is expected to cost between \$260-\$320 million and be fully operational by the summer of 2003.

Power Plant Task Force chairman Phil DeAndrade explained at the meeting that the CEC is the "only permitting body that gives final approval to let Mirant proceed with expansion of the plant." May 31 is the deadline for community concerns on the matter.

The proposed Potrero Power Plant Project, now under review by the CEC would expand the existing Potrero Plant facility at Illinois and 23rd Streets. At present, that power plant consists of three 52-megawatt combustion turbine units, one 206-megawatt steam turbine unit and a 320 ft. high smokestack.

Dogpatch resident Joe Boss, who lives about 1000 feet from the power plant, is concerned about the impact and increase of PM10 and PM5 (particulate matter), which contribute to respiratory problems and have negative impact on water quality.

Hill resident Sarah Ames spoke of the possibility that there might be pollution from ammonia and other chemicals that had been stored at the plant, and that there's "hazardous waste from the old power plant" (a former coal tar plant).

Continued on Page 3



The "Sweet November" filming took place mainly on 18th Street, and the above set was a house across from Christopher's Books on Missouri Street.

Judy Baston photo

## "Sweet November" Finally Pays Off!

To many 18th and Missouri residents and merchants, last fall's location filming of "Sweet November" was a bit of a pain.

Since then, however, 15 Potrero Hill groups are thankful that the Sweet November Production Company acknowledged the community's inconvenience by donating \$11,500 for neighborhood projects.

As a result of the film firm's sensitivity, the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn. the Dogpatch Neighborhood Assn. and the Potrero Hill Assn. of Merchants and Businesses (PHAB) formed a committee to solicit and review grant applications from neighborhood groups and schools. Grant applications for projects not normally supported by other funds were distributed to Potrero Hill Schools, formal and informal community groups and individuals.

Boosters President John de Castro said, "We are grateful that Sweet November Productions recognized the disruption of our neighborhood." He went on to single out Gail Stempler, of the film organiza-

tion, who worked tirelessly with the Boosters, Merchants, Dogpatch and neighbors "to minimize the disruption of our lives. I only wish other movie and television companies would be as concerned about the neighborhood."

Phil De Andrade, President of PHAB noted that "Sweet November," unlike most production companies, supported neighborhood merchants. They bought coffee and sandwiches for the crews from Potrero merchants instead of from out-of-area caterers."

For the most part the money was allocated to help provide the maximum benefit for Hill organizations and projects.

"The committee made some tough calls on projects," said Susan Eslick, President of the Dogpatch Assn. "They tried to fund as many as possible."

Some of the more unusual ones were to replace window blinds at the Middle School that had been on the repair list for many years; garden supplies for parks and

green belts; herb garden supplies at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine; an origami project at the Potrero Hill Library, and Special Education materials for Starr King Elementary School. In many cases, projects got a gift certificate for use at a Potrero Hill or Dogpatch business.

"Sweet November" recipients include: American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Dogpatch Neighborhood Assn. Historic District Study, Friends of Esprit Park, Friends of McKinley Square Park, Jackson Playground Tiny Tot program, Omega Boys Club, Potrero Library Branch, Potrero Hill Archives Project, Potrero Recreation Center Music Program, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, Potrero Middle School (Computer Lab and Garden Project), Potrero Beautification Group, Project Imagine Art organization, Starr King Elementary School (Library, Science Fair and Art Projects), and Starr King Park.

## It's Deja Vu All Over Again....

--See Page 3

## GETTING INVOLVED

**ROSES** (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (Apr. 5) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the Community Facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale, at Phelps. Refreshments after the meeting. Following the Captain's Report, the agenda will include presentations on "SFPD Mission Statement & Community Policing," "Police Academy Recruitment," and "the Recycling Program."

**POTRERO HILL HEALTH CENTER ADVISORY BOARD** meets Monday (Apr. 2) from 4 - 5 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin St., are open to the public. April's discussions will focus on the Youth Immunization Project, more nutrition information and continued planning for the Center's 25th anniversary celebration in May; and the Health Fair in August.

**DOGPATCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.** meets the first Tuesday of the month (Apr. 3) at 7 p.m., 950 Tennessee St. (Watermark). The agenda will include a report from the S.F. Bicycle Coalition; and — from the S.F. Planning Dept. — a report on the recent Central Waterfront Cultural Resources Survey.

**PHAB** (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza -- corner of Connecticut and 18th St.

**STARR KING PARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meets the second Wednesday evening of each odd-numbered month (next meeting, May 9) at 7 p.m. in the Potrero Hill Library upstairs meeting room, 1616 - 20th St. The Saturday morning work parties at 9 a.m. will continue every month on the third Saturday (Apr. 21). The park is located at Carolina and 23rd Sts.

**POTRERO BOOSTERS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION** meets the last Tuesday of the month (Apr. 24) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Hill Library, 1616 - 20th St. Power Plant update with Steve Moss, environmental consultant will report on the response from the California Energy Commission.

**POTRERO HILL GARDEN CLUB** meets the last Sunday of the month (Apr. 29) at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details.

**PLAN** (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets in executive session only. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.



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### Street Names OK - Hands Off San Bruno!

**Editor:**

My Father arrived in San Francisco at the age of 16 in 1903. He resided at 590 San Bruno Ave. at Judnick's Boarding House & Bar. He lived there until he and my mother bought a house between 18th & 19th Streets on San Bruno Ave. in 1919.

There are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations living on the 600 - 700 blocks of San Bruno Ave. We are satisfied with the name San Bruno Ave. and see no reason for a change.

It is the new comers who do not know what the name of San Bruno Ave. means to the long time residents.

Leave the name San Bruno Ave. as is!

**Virginia Sustarich**

(Editor's note: Sorry, Virginio. See article on Page 11)

**Editor:**

Restoring county names to east/west streets on Potrero Hill is a great idea!

People driving east to find an address on 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 25th and 26th Streets are always confused when the streets dead end in the Mission at the 101 freeway, then start up again on Potrero Hill.

Your name may be 'Mud' around the Thomas Bros. Map Co. but they will get over it as they did when new streets like Blair Terrace were added after Parkview Heights was built!

**Linda Clark**  
Missouri Street

### No School Name Change!

**Editor:**

Board of Education members should devote their time to improving the schools and educating our children. An outsider should not initiate a school name change without a thorough study. A great deal of thought was put into the selection of "Potrero Hill" for the name of our Junior High School.

We are proud of where we live and figure the rest of the City should know it. Various political names were suggested to the committee to select a name for the Junior High School (Middle School) when it was opened. Among the choices, several political names were offered. They were all set aside in favor of Potrero Hill because that name represented all of us and it was not political or racist.

Don't spend your time trying to change our School name. Board members should devote their time doing things for which they were elected. — Improve education! Leave the "Potrero Hill" name alone.

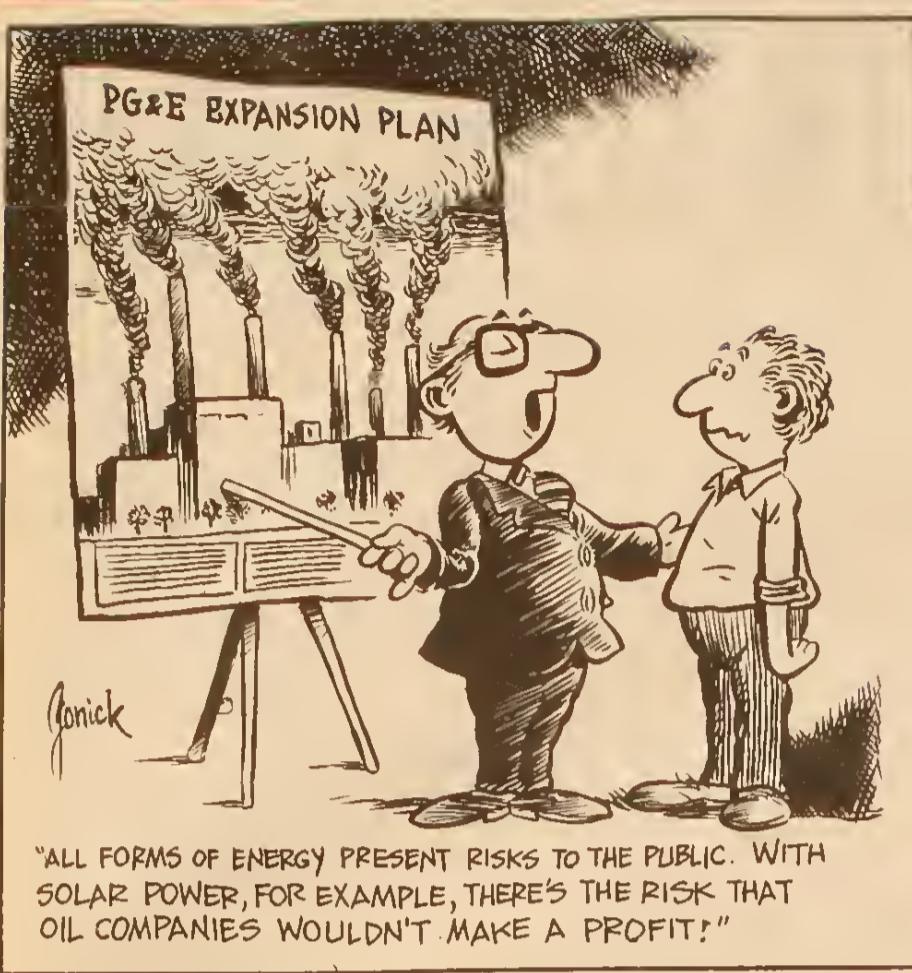
**Babette Dreske**  
Kansas Street



### 1906 Earthquake & Fire from Fillmore



For most of us, 95 years is so much history — but to survivors and families of those who lived through the earthquake and fire in San Francisco's moment of history in 1906, it lives on through stories and film. The photo was taken in the Fillmore/Western Addition districts, and believe it or not there are some oldtimers still around to tell about their experiences.



## Deja Vu, All Over Again.....

The current power crisis is not new. THE VIEW tackled the issue head-on more than 20 years ago. The problem was treated in the lead editorial in the October, 1979 issue. It's so apropos that we're running it again — verbatim — below. And for those of you who thought the cartoon at the left was drawn just last month; think again, it's from the June, 1979 VIEW.

### PUBLIC POWER

In a move that would mean stripping PG&E of its power monopoly, San Franciscans for Public Power have been advocating a feasibility study of the municipalization of Hetch Hetchy hydroelectric power.

The study, estimated at a cost of \$100,000, would, "determine how much it would cost to acquire and operate the system, how much the city will earn, how much utility rates could be reduced and how many people are needed to run the system." Additionally, it will "examine the desirability of purchasing PG&E's fossil fuel generating plants on Potrero Hill and Hunters Point."

In cities where power is already publicly owned, bills average fifty percent less than in San Francisco today. According to Supervisor Harry Britt, San Francisco could realize a profit of \$15 million annually if public power was instituted.

At a recent Board meeting, some Supervisors discussed the cost of such a study. Others argued that this issue has already been debated, voted on, and dismissed several times in the past 50 years.

Supervisor Ella Hutch said that what is needed is, "Strong management in city offices. I cannot advocate an unknown (cost) when the known is being badly managed."

"Look at how badly BART is run, and the sewer mess, and all the other city-run services," Supervisor Dan Horanzy pointed out.

The bill for public power was defeated 7-3 by the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors Britt, Silver and Lau voting in support.

Are we to give up a potential new revenue source, are we to dismiss the possibility of halving our power bills, because officials refuse to even attempt to run city departments efficiently? Are we to accept this refusal as the final word on public power?

At a time when utility rates are skyrocketing (the PUC projects a 50% rate hike in 1980), and government is searching for new revenue sources to fill the gaps left by Prop 13, the study of public power should be a priority.

Who will we elect to represent us in November? Will they be representatives of the interests of the people of San Francisco? Or will they be bureaucrats so enmeshed in city and corporate politics that even the possibility of change seems too monumental to attempt? What's best for the people of this city often seems not to be an issue with our elected officials.

### IF THE POWER PLANT IS EXPANDED YOU COULD BE BREATHING...

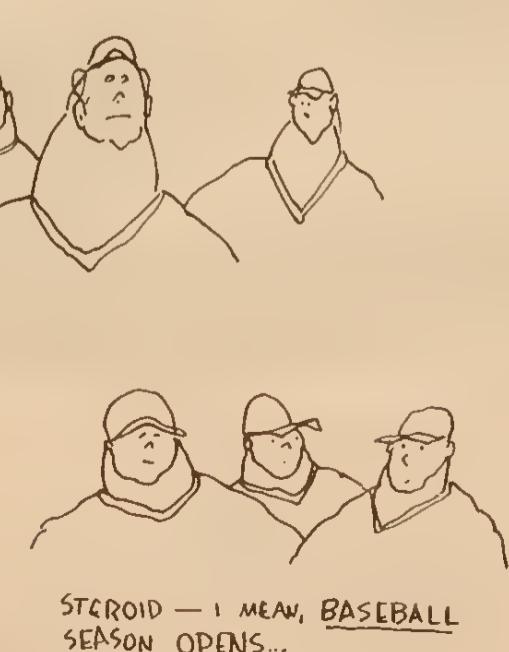
POLLUTANTS	PROPOSED UNIT #7 40 Year Project	EXISTING UNITS #3,4,5,6 1998 Figures	HUNTERS POINT-PLANT 1993 Figures
<b>Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>2</sub>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can trigger respiratory problems</li> <li>major ingredient in the formation of ground level smog</li> <li>contributes to the formation of acid rain</li> <li>negative impact on water quality</li> </ul>	Additional 178 tons per year or 356,000 pounds per year	773 tons per year or 1,546,000 pounds per year	1,001 tons per year or 2,002,000 pounds per year
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can cause dizziness, fatigue</li> <li>can interfere with oxygen levels in blood</li> <li>contributes to acid rain</li> </ul>	Additional 262 tons per year or 524,000 pounds per year	237 tons per year or 474,000 pounds per year	200 tons per year or 400,000 pounds per year
<b>Particulate Matter (dust/soot)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contributes to respiratory problems</li> <li>days when soot/dust levels are higher, higher hospital death rates occur</li> <li>negative impact on water quality</li> </ul>	Additional 110 tons per year or 220,000 pounds per year	51 tons per year or 102,000 pounds per year	10 tons per year or 20,000 pounds per year
<b>Precursor Organic Compounds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>major ingredient in the formation of ground level smog</li> <li>also known as, volatile organic compounds</li> </ul>	Additional 49 tons per year or 98,000 pounds per year	36 tons per year or 72,000 pounds per year	33 tons per year or 66,000 pounds per year
<b>Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can trigger respiratory problems</li> <li>major ingredient in the formation of ground level smog</li> <li>negative impact on water quality</li> <li>contributes to the formation of acid rain</li> </ul>	Additional 26 tons per year or 52,000 pounds per year	34 tons per year or 68,000 pounds per year	10 tons per year or 20,000 pounds per year
<b>Ammonia</b>	Two 20,000		

### SOURCES:

Proposed Unit #7 - from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (2/17/01)

Existing Units #3,4,5,6 - from 1998 figures Mirant Corp. provided to Southeast Alliance, Table 441 (2/01)

Hunters Point Plant - from Title 5 Federal permits application for PG&E (1997)



## LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH  
1616 20th St. • 695-6640

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



### POET KIM ADDONIZIO READS

On Saturday, April 7, at 4 p.m., the widely-acclaimed San Francisco poet Kim Addonizio will read her poetry. Addonizio's most recently published book is "Tell Me: Poems."

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Infant-Toddler Lapsit takes place on Thursday, April 5, 12, 19, and 26, at 10:30 a.m. Storytime for children age four and above takes place on Tuesday, April 3, 10, 17, and 24, at 7 p.m. The film, "Boy King," about the childhood of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be shown on Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m.

### 46th ANNUAL POTRERO HILL ARTISTS EXHIBITION

The 46th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition will be on display at the Potrero Library through April 28. Stop in and see the work of local artists, who live, study or work on Potrero Hill. Participating artists are reminded to pick up their work on April 28 by 5 p.m.

### CHANGE IN VIDEO LIMITS

Beginning on March 1, the limit on the number of videos that can be borrowed on a single card has increased. Borrowers can now check out up to four videos per card. The fine of \$1 per day for late returns remains in force.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

\* Barnes, Julian. "Love, etc." Barnes concocts a mordant sexual comedy, taking over the later lives of three characters he introduced in "Talking it Over." Intelligent and skillful probing of romance, marriage and disappointment. Expect controversy.

\* Durkee, Lee. "Rides of the Midway." An energetic first novel about the childhood, adolescence, and emerging manhood of a troubled Mississippi boy in the decade after Vietnam.

\* Grant, Linda. "When I Lived in Modern Times." An unsentimental, iconoclastic coming-of-age story of an Israeli immigrant. Won the 2000 Orange Prize, ahead of "White Teeth."

\* Hay, Elizabeth. "A Student of Weather." Canadian writer Hay brings her extraordinary attunement to the sensuousness of landscape to this mesmerizing first novel. It begins circa 1930 on the drought-ravished prairies of Saskatchewan. A bestseller in Canada.

\* Warren, Olivia. "Taste of Eritrea: recipes from one of East Africa's most interesting little countries." Includes 100 easy-to-understand recipes from Eritrea, a country whose cuisine has been influenced by Italians, Turks, British, Egyptians and Ethiopians who occupied the land before its independence.

\* Fintor, Yolanda. "Hungarian Cookbook: Old World recipes for New World cooks." Includes classic Hungarian favorites like Chicken Paprika and Goulash, in both an Old World and New World version.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

\* Schuch, Steve. "A Symphony of Whales"

\* Sortland, Bjorn. "Anna's Art Adventure"

\* Forgan, James and Harry W. "Phonics in Lesson, Pictures and Activities"

\* Barron, Rex. "Fed Up!: a feast of frazzled food!"

\* Charlip, Remy. "Why I Will Never, Ever, Ever, Ever have Enough Time to Read this Book"

Toba Singer  
Branch Librarian

### Tape of "History Night" Now Available

In October 2000, hundreds of people enjoyed "An Evening of Potrero Hill History," hosted by the Potrero Hill Merchants and Businesses (PHAB), and produced at the Thick Theatre, 1695 18th St.

A filming of the evening's event was produced by the Potrero Hill Archives Project and is now available on video at the Potrero Hill Library, 1616 - 20th St., and at Dr. Video, 1521 - 18th St. Goat Hill Pizza owner Phil DeAndrade held lively interviews with long-time Hill residents Ann McCarthy and June Popoff, and View editor Ruth Passen is seen in conversation with Enola D. Maxwell, Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

### MUNI Tix at Nabe

MUNI tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays during office hours, 10 am-4 pm

Senior MUNI: \$8.00  
Youth MUNI: \$8.00

For more information, call 826-8080

### THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.



# TEN YEARS AGO

*In The View*

### HILL RALLIES TO DEFEND ITS LIBRARY

More than 75 concerned library users attended a meeting March 9 at the Branch Library to tell the Chief of Branches Neel Parikh and Library Commission Finance Chairman Dale Carlson how important they consider the Hill's library and librarians. And several dozen neighborhood residents also attended Library Commission sessions and a community meeting at the Mission Branch Library to urge that the Potrero Branch not face drastic cuts. The Library Commission had considered downgrading the Potrero Branch to a Reading Center, open only 20 hours a week, and staffed by a library tech and a page instead of the Branch's two librarians.

### PLANNING COMMISSION POSTPONES VOTE ON 18TH AND ARKANSAS PROJECT

The Planning Commission put off until April 12 a vote on granting a conditional use permit to the controversial plan to build 29 units of affordable artist's live/work spaces and 61 units of market rate condos on a vacant slope at 18th and Arkansas Streets. There was a large turnout of Hill dwellers, many of whom voiced opposition to the plan, preferring that the area be preserved as open space, while many others were prepared to accept a compromise plan. A number of union officials and area industry owners had urged the Commission to deny the permit for residential use on land that is zoned M-1, for mixed, but primarily industrial use. They argued that with land values for condominiums higher than for industry, such a change would encourage owners of nearby land to sell for condo construction and evict businesses.

### AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .

The U.S. Department of Defense outlined a plan to reserve at least 50 beds at San Francisco General Hospital to care for military personnel severely injured in a "future large-scale war overseas" . . . Local organizations expressed concern over the plan to build condominium units on the old Synanon facility at 23rd and Kansas, which had previously been for many years the location of the Dutch Boy paint factory . . . New routes for Muni bus lines on the Hill went into effect in April . . . Serious understaffing at San Francisco General Hospital that provoked a walkout by interns and residents the previous year, was still a cause of major concern. Despite an agreement reached to settle the dispute, the hiring of 70 additional employees within 90 days, a study showed that there had been a net increase of only 10 new employees, and patient needs remained unmet because of understaffing.

By Bernie Gershater

San Francisco Public Library Presents

46<sup>TH</sup> Annual

### Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition

March 31 - April 28 - 2001

### OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday  
March 31  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Plus Live music by  
BLUE ON GREEN

Potrero Branch Library  
1616 - 20<sup>th</sup> Street

Library Hours  
Tuesday 10:00-8:00  
Wednesday 12:00-8:00  
Thursday 10:00-6:00  
Friday & Saturday 1:00-6:00  
CLOSED Sunday & Monday

All programs at the library are free.



Funded by the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library, Potrero Boosters & Merchants Association Potrero Women's Club, Klein's Deli, Good Life Grocery, Dolphin Graphics, Thinkers Cafe, Christopher's Books, and others.

San Francisco Public Library  
Potrero Branch Library • 1616 20th Street • 415 695 6640

## Medical Social Worker Stands Ready To Assist at Potrero Hill Health Center

By Dr. Michael Drennan & Janet Moomaw, MSW

For the past nine years, patients and provider staff of the Caleb G. Clark Potrero Health Center have benefited from the presence of an on-site Medical Social Worker. She is part of the team-based approach to health services found in the Dept. of Public Health's commitment to Community Oriented Primary Care. What follows is an interview with Janet Moomaw, MSW at the Health Center for the past year.

**Q:** So what does a Medical Social Worker do?

**A:** For starters, the Social Worker can help patients figure out what benefits they may be eligible for, and can help them apply. This could be for medical insurance programs, like Medi-Cal, or for cash assistance programs, like General Assistance, State Disability, or Social Security. This might involve guiding someone through program paperwork, or even assisting someone with court or other appearances.

**Q:** How about help with mental health issues?

**A:** The Social Worker can help patients deal with issues such as feelings of nervousness, depression or anxiety. If referrals to mental health professionals for further evaluation or treatment are needed, I help arrange these in consultation with one's primary care provider.

**Q:** What if patients have transportation, food or clothing needs?

**A:** Many patients have difficulties getting around the city, including to medical appointments. If disabled, patients may be eligible for a discount pass, taxi vouchers, or bus tokens. Some people will benefit from referrals to food banks or other subsidized food programs. Also, clothing and even furniture needs, including specialized items for disabled persons, can be obtained for needy patients.

**Q:** Do you help people locate other specialized resources?

**A:** Resource referral is a major role I handle at the Health Center. For example, elders who can be referred to the

City's Adult Day Health programs, which provide social activities and meals to participants. Many programs exist to serve disabled individuals, such as the Recreation Center for the Handicapped, Golden Gate Regional Center, and others. Many patients and their families are either unaware of these special programs or have difficulty applying and getting to them. That's where I can help.

**Q:** What can you provide for patients with housing needs?

**A:** For many patients of our Health Center, the first step is often to meet with me to address their immediate housing needs. It is especially important to seek assistance early and to stay abreast of the housing options, both public and private. For others, it may mean getting involved with a local housing advocacy group addressing the larger issue of homelessness.

**Q:** Many San Francisco residents lack adequate housing. How has the Dept. of Public Health responded to this crisis?

**A:** In April 1999, the Health Commission passed a resolution "Recognizing that the current housing crisis poses a serious barrier to the promotion of effective public health practices." The Commission went on to "explore and support any and all options that could increase the supply of affordable housing to extremely low income, homeless, and disabled residents..." The Dept. of Public Health has created an Office of Housing with the goal of more units of increased low income housing. And, in their 1999 resolution, the Health Commission supported advocacy efforts for increased funding from State and Federal levels.

In summary, the Dept. of Public Health is committed to providing the range of services needed by the patients who seek care in its Community Health Network (CHN) health centers. Whether it's help with housing, food, transportation or other psychosocial needs, the Medical Social Worker at the CHN's Potrero Hill Health Center will provide the expertise and concern necessary to improve the lives of her patients. For more information, call the Health Center at 648-3022.

## Cuban Artworks At SOMARTS



**Cuban Styles 2001** is an exhibition of limited edition prints made in San Francisco during a week-long workshop, taught by Eduardo Choca, who has mastered the use of dynamic color through his development of a printmaking technique called "Colagrafia." Artists participating in the workshop will exhibit alongside Choca in the Main Gallery at SomArts from April 11 to April 28, at 934 Brannan, between 8th and 9th Streets. The Gallery will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. There will be an opening reception April 11 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., featuring authentic Cuban saladito menu, and music by producer Aaron Levinson. For more information call (510) 655-3576, or visit the website at [www.cubanstyles.com](http://www.cubanstyles.com).

Joe Blum photo

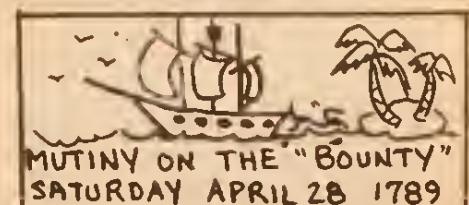
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# Purr-Fect Solution



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orders to-go  
garden patio for private parties

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dinner: monday - thursday 5:00pm - 9:30pm  
friday - saturday 5:00pm - 10:00pm

## FIRST POTRERO SCHOOL



(California Historical Society Collection)

This photo has been in the collection of the Potrero Hill Archives Project for about 10 years. I've always wondered where the Potrero (note the misspelling in the photo) school was; now I think I know.

Recently, I was looking through the S.F. Municipal reports of the 1860s in the S.F. History Room of the Main Library. These reports describe measures acted on or under consideration by the Board of Supervisors. During the fiscal year 1864-5, a new school was erected "on the Potrero, on a lot 150 x 100 ft., two thirds of which was purchased by citizens living on the Potrero, and donated to the Department. The building, which is of wood, has a large session room, one entrance and clothes' room for each sex, and cost \$2,150." The price of the lot was \$125; there were 23 boys and 21 girls enrolled.

It was located on the northeast corner of what was then Kentucky and Napa Streets, now Third and 20th. Today, you'll see Johnson's Upholstery on that spot.

Many of the children's parents must have worked at the Iron Works, two blocks east on 20th, the Arctic Oil Wharf at the east end of 16th, or the S.F. Cordage Co. at 23rd and Third. The parish that would become St. Teresa's was then meeting at Penny's Hall at 18th and Third.

"The average cost of seating primary pupils is about one dollar each (month). During the past year, so many children were found occupying the benches, who were, on account of their age and size, cramped by the lowness and narrowness of their seats, that the Board was compelled by sheer humanity to provide these pupils with commodious desks and chairs. Under these circumstances, a

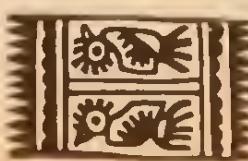
heavy outlay for furniture was inevitable." (From the S.F. Muni Reports of the 1860s)

The Potrero School was one of 23 primary schools in the city in 1865. There were also two high schools, eight grammar schools, and four "mixed" schools: male, female, colored, and Chinese.

The Potrero School had one teacher, Mr. F.J. Leonard, who had a high school diploma. By 1868, enrollment had more than doubled to 105, a sign of the rapid industrial growth in the neighborhood.

But an even greater growth was anticipated. A project called "the greatest work of the age" was growing at the rate of seven to nine miles a day. It would become an unbroken track of railroad stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Overland Monthly, devoted to the development of the country, said in October 1868: "The sharpest sense of Americans — the keen sense of gain, which certainly does not lose its keenness in our bracing air — is the first to realize what is coming with our railroad. All over the state, land is appreciating — fortunes are being made in a day by buying and parcelling out Spanish ranches ... calculations based upon the growth of San Francisco can hardly be wild. There are now men in their prime among us who will live to see this the second, perhaps the first city on the continent."

But the effect of the Trans-continental railroad on San Francisco would be quite different. (To be continued next month!)



## Film Call For Young Actors

For 12 Bay Area teenagers, the dream of making a film will become a reality when some of the world's finest independent Jewish filmmakers will mentor Bay Area youngsters beginning in July, 2001. The youngsters films will be screened at the Castro Theatre.

Sam Ball, associate director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, received a grant from the Joshua Venture Fellowship to launch the program called the "New Jewish Film Project. Ball has been teaching film and video production to teenagers since 1993, and is one of several independent filmmakers in the United States to start programs that involve teenagers in explorations of ethnic culture and identity.

The teen filmmaker program begins at the 21st S.F. Jewish Film Festival, July 19 to 26, where leading independent Jewish filmmakers from around the world will share their experience with Bay Area teens. Later this year a team of award-winning Bay Area filmmakers, including Ball, two-time academy award nominee Deborah Hoffman and Emmy award winner Gary Weinberg will mentor local teens, who will write, produce, direct and edit their own film. In 2002, the teenagers will show their film at the S.F. Jewish Film Festival.

Prospective students (Jewish or not) may apply online at [www.sjfjf.org/project](http://www.sjfjf.org/project) or send a two-page letter of interest to: Sam Ball, Director New Jewish Film Project, S.F. Jewish Film Festival, 346-9th St., S.F., Ca. 94103. Fax: (415) 621-0568. Application deadline is May 1, 2001.



Brown Cow  
Whole Milk  
Yogurt  
The good stuff!  
8 oz. -reg 99¢

**69¢**



Häagen-Dazs

Haagen-Dazs  
Ice Cream &  
Frozen Yogurt  
16 oz. -reg 3.39



**2 for \$5.00**

Cascadian Farms  
Organic Fruit Spreads  
10 oz. -reg 2.99

**2 for  
\$5.00**

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FARM

Fish Bros.  
Sliced Salmon Lox  
3 oz. -reg 4.99

**2 for \$7.00**

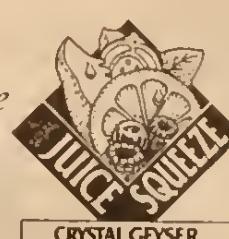
Monday - Saturday  
8:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Sundays  
9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Sale prices effective  
April 2 - 16, 2001

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STORNETTA  
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8 oz.      16 oz.  
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\$3.00**



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GOOD LIFE GROCERY**

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FREE STORYTIME AND GARDEN WALK for children four to eight at Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. "Tall Trees and Forest Fables" is the theme for April. After the stories are read, take a guided walk designed especially for families in the Gardens. The event is planned for two Sundays, April 1st and 15th. The story will be read at 10:30 a.m. and the walk will begin at 11 a.m. For more information call (415) 661-1316.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING will be the theme at the April 17 meeting of the Gray Panthers, 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary. The featured speaker will be Matt Gonzalez, Green Party member and the new Supervisor from District 5. The meeting is free and open to all. For more information call (415) 552-8800.

HOSPICE BY THE BAY AND Green Street Mortuary present "Caregiving and Loss: Family Needs, Professional Responses," a live-via-satellite teleconference moderated by Cokie Roberts of ABC News. It will be presented locally at San Francisco State University, Seven Hills Conference Center, 800 Font Blvd., on April 28, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The conference is free of charge but seating is limited. Register at (415) 626-5900.

SAN FRANCISCO SPCA announces Volunteer orientation workshops for cat socializers, dog walkers and adoption counselors, among others, to be held from 10 - 2 on Saturdays, April 17th, 21st, and 28th. All workshops will take place at 243 Alabama St. For more information call (415) 554-3087.



THE FIFTH ANNUAL GLEN PARK FESTIVAL will be held Sunday, April 29, on Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth Streets, to raise scholarship funds for kids to attend the Glen Park Silver Tree Day Camp, held in Glen Park Canyon during the summer months. Dance to live music by Brenda Bodkin and Home Cookin', Brother Buzz, Rudy Salvini's Tuxedo Junction, and the USA Young Women's Taiko Drummers. Browse the arts and crafts booths and eat delicious food. Take a chance to win a raffle prize. For more info call (415) 835-2112.

THE DIEGO RIVERA THEATER at City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Ave., at Judson, presents James Still's "And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank," a fully mounted multi-media enhanced performance of this holocaust play. Two performances only — Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, April 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for students and seniors. Call (415) 239-3132.



\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE! The Texas Poetry Alliance is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their annual spiritual poetry contest open to the public. There is no entry fee, and everyone is invited to submit a poem. Poems may be written on any subject and in any style that tends to inspire the reader. To enter, send one poem 20 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 3412-A Moonlight Ave., El Paso, TX 79904, or enter online at [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com). The deadline is April 10.

APRIL EVENTS AT MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE include: Last Gasp Press Party, Part I, celebrating "The World of Jack Chick" and "Coyote Satan America" with food, refreshments and readings. Wed., April 11, at 7:30 p.m. "Women Who Become Men," Thurs., April 12, 7:30 p.m. Antonia Young's book tells the stories of women in remote regions of Albania who elect to 'become' men. While this costs them the possibilities of sexual relationships, marriage and children, it also gains for them social freedom and the ability to inherit and manage property. "If There Would Be No Lights," poems by Sahara Sunday Spain, who is now nine, and has been creating poems since the age of four. "I don't know where it comes from, but it feels like I swallow the words down from the sky and they come up again as poems, already complete and entire," she says. Sahara is a Bay Area local. Her book has a foreword by Gloria Steinem. This event is Tues., April 17, 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m., "The Trial of Henry Kissinger," by Christopher Hitchens, who presents evidence that Kissinger, like Pinochet and Milosevic, committed war crimes in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Santiago (Chile), Nicosia, Washington, DC, and East Timor. Drawing on first hand testimony, previously unpublished documentation, and material released under the Freedom of Information Act, Hitchens mounts a devastating indictment of a man whose ambition and ruthlessness have directly resulted in both individual murders and widespread, indiscriminate slaughter. This indictment of Kissinger was recently featured in two separate issues of Harpers.

Modern Times Bookstore is located at 888 Valencia at 20th St. (415) 282-9246.

FROM RUBBLE TO RENAISSANCE: San Francisco recovered from the 1906 earthquake and fire to dazzle the world with its Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Learn about the Fair Saturday, April 14, during a 3-mile hike in the Presidio of San Francisco with National Park Service docent Rick Spear. The walk begins at 1 p.m. in front of the gym at the corner of Lincoln and Funston Avenues on the Presidio. For directions and reservations call (415) 561-4323.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR APRIL'S MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WALK. Nine communities in Northern California will be participating in the MS WALK, Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22. On Sunday, April 22, the walk will be in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Each site features a 10K route and a 5K "Challenge Route" to accommodate wheelchairs, seniors and parents with small children. For those who don't wish to walk, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities. Since its inception in 1989, the Walk has generated \$100 million, including \$1.8 million locally. University scientists receive research grants from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Northern California Chapter emphasizes wellness, providing education, equipment, emotional support, exercise classes family programs and financial assistance to people with MS and their loved ones. For more information call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit [www.msconnection.org](http://www.msconnection.org)

AVIATION WALK. Join National Park Service docent Don Gray on an easy one-mile walk Sat., Apr. 14, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, on the Crissy Field Walk. Meet in front of Sitwell Hall on Mason Street in the Presidio. For information and directions call the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center, 561-4323, or 561-4314(TTY). The No. 29 Muni bus stops in front of Sitwell Hall.

ARCHITECTURE WALK. From Queen Anne and Second Empire to Mediterranean Revival, architectural styles on the Presidio of San Francisco reflect more than a century of changing times and attitudes. Join National Park Service docent Nora Klebow on an easy one-mile walk Sun., April 29, to learn about the architecture of the Main Post. Meet at 1 p.m. at the William Penn Mott Jr. Visitor Center on Montgomery Street in the Presidio. For info and Directions call 561-4423 or 561-4314(TTY).

**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Annual Spring Flea Market**

**Potrero Hill Neighborhood House**  
953 DeHaro St., SF, CA 94107  
(415) 826-8080  
(415) 826-5252 FAX

To reserve a space, please fill out the application below and bring or send to the address above along with \$15.00 fee for each space wanted.

**Saturday, April 21, 2001**  
**10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Antiques & Fine Junk**  
**Arts & Crafts**  
**Rummage Sales**  
**Food, Drinks & Desserts**

**NO FOOD CONCESSIONS — FOOD WILL BE SOLD BY THE POTRERO HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (Street/City/Zip)

Wares To Be Sold \_\_\_\_\_ (General Description)

# Of Spaces \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$15.00 each)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**

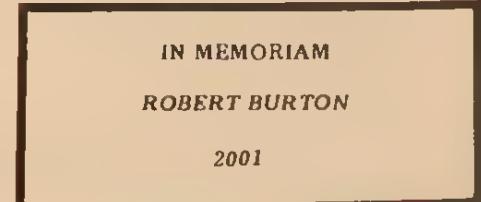
**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
**POTRERO HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**  
**953 DE HARO STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107**



IN MEMORIAM

PETE CHIOTRAS

2001





## Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107

(415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

### ONGOING MEETINGS:

Al-anon .....	Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous .....	Mondays, 8:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous .....	Wednesdays, 8:00 pm
Omega Boys Club .....	Tuesdays, 7:30 pm
Employment Workshops .....	Fridays, 10:00 am

Board of Directors Meetings are held monthly on the Third Monday

### FACILITIES:

Auditorium for theater presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions

Bulletin Board with events and employment listings

Gymnasium and recreational space

Meeting space rental available for use by the community

All services and activities are FREE

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you have the need for the services of a certified American Sign Language interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or meeting in an alternative format, please contact

415 826-8080 at least one week prior to event

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving the most needy of the community with emphasis on youth and education

### After-School and Summer Activities:

Supervised activities in collaboration with the SF Unified School District are provided from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during the school year and all day during the summer with mentors, counselors and youth expressing interest in working with children and volunteers from the community. These activities include arts & crafts, theater, drama, recreation, gardening, field trips as well as computer and educational courses offered as needed in order to offer tutorial services as requested by parents, teachers and the children needing the services. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts meet and children are encouraged to participate in a loving and comfortable environment. Music, science, and choir programs are available to all youth.

**Zap Project:** A substance abuse day treatment program, which provides therapeutic intervention designed to reduce use amongst youth ages 11 through 25. It is the philosophy of the Zap Project to combine structure, therapeutic community support of residential programs during the day, which allows youth to be home at night. Hours of Operations are Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 6 pm. Family participation is encouraged.

### Counseling and Casework:

Promoting accountability and peer pressure. Provides for the three levels of counseling: Peer Counseling, Paraprofessionals, and referrals to professional providers. This service provides counseling and advocacy for youth in a variety of settings. Through our existing programs, caseworkers know the participants and have intimate knowledge and trust about their families and personal relationships. They know what agencies are appropriate to meet their personal needs.

**Experiment in Diversity** offers monthly dinners open to the community; cultural awareness and sensitivity; conflict resolution skills, anger management; theatrical productions are held every month showcasing real life situations, hardships, traditional dance, music and foods of a specific race, gender and/or culture presented entirely by youth.

**Group Activities:** Offering reciprocal restitution through the Omega Club, Peer Counseling, Experiment in Diversity, Project 20. These programs are primary vehicles for transmitting the essential core values for youth. This method also serves to systematically and deliberately create a sense of the "whole" family unit and to underscore mutual responsibility for each other as working member.

### Social Development & Senior Development Center:

An atmosphere and service of care, trust and normalization for some of San Francisco's more mature disabled adults from ages 40 and above is provided in a continuing effort to improve their quality of life. Our program integrates into other generic services and develops socialization skills, community awareness, recreation and leisure skills through our extensive creative arts programs and therapeutic case management.

**Flea Markets** are held annually in Spring and Fall for the community and open to all.

**Senior Activities:** The Potrero Hill Neighborhood is a site for Project Open Hand, a nutritional project. Each weekday morning, senior citizens from the community gather for scheduled activities, coffee, lunch and consumer information, dance, bingo and stimulating conversation.

**Food Distribution:** Each year, this program produces over 500 Holiday Food Baskets consisting of can goods, produce, ham, turkey or chickens for those most in need during the holiday season. Toys as available are given to children as donations are made. Throughout the year, emergency food bags are provided to families and individual in need.

### Jobs

**Life Skills Training and Workshops Employment Referrals and Training:** Provides "early exposure" for youth ages 14-18, soft skills training, job readiness skills, post high school or GED attainment, and career choices to promote education, financial responsibility and vocational success. Full and part time positions are available within the agency and citywide. Applicants are placed in private industry, government and other community-based organization. Orientation adjustment, training assists in preparing youths for jobs. *The Good Faith Employment & Support Services* offers placement services for young adults 18 to 25 years of age primarily in the building trades but not limited to the industry. Apprenticeships are available through different unions as well as all other types of employment opportunities and support services in these areas are available to the community regardless of age.

## "Reconciled" at Traveling Jewish Theatre

A traveling Jewish Theatre concludes its New Roots Season with the world premiere of "Reconciled in the Book of Secrets (or How to Find Romania)" by internationally acclaimed storyteller Laura Simms. Co-created, written and performed by Simms, "Reconciled" is an autobiographical journey that brings to life a panoply of characters, including a young Orthodox girl, a Maori elder, the ghost of Simms' Romanian grandmother, a Santeria priest in the Bronx and keening Israeli matriarchs. Simms' poignant personal narrative is framed by the story of Rabbah Ben Ben Hannah, a sixth century Babylonian tale from the Jewish equivalent of The Arabian Nights.

Co-created and directed by Naomi Newman, "Reconciled" previews April 12-15, opens on Monday, April 16 at 8 p.m., and runs Thursdays through Sundays until May 6. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 with discounted tickets available for students, seniors and groups of 10 or more. "Pay-what-you-can" tickets are available every Thursday at the door (subject to availability). Opening Night tickets are available, which include admission to a private party with the artists following the performance.

A Traveling Jewish Theatre is located at 470 Florida St. (between 17th and Mariposa Streets). For tickets or additional information, contact 399-1809.



Laura Simms, co-creator, writer and performer in the Travelling Jewish Theater's production.

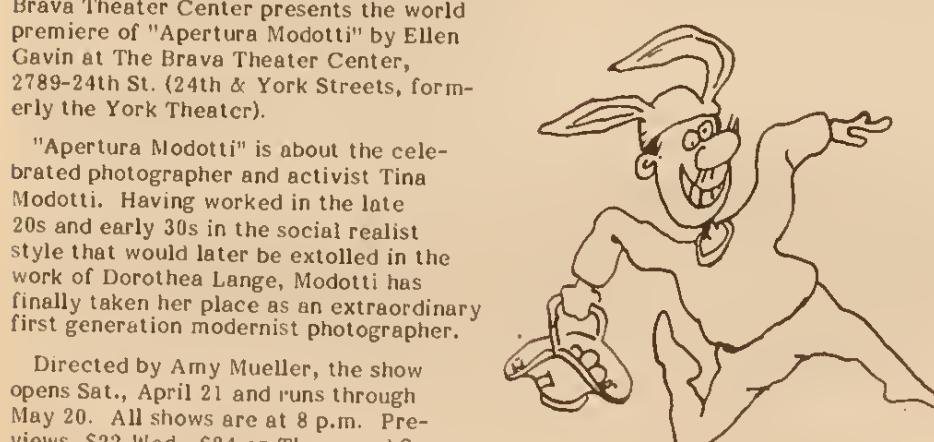
Steve Savage photo

## World Premiere Play at Brava! For Women In the Arts

Brava! For Women in the Arts/The Brava Theater Center presents the world premiere of "Apertura Modotti" by Ellen Gavin at The Brava Theater Center, 2789-24th St. (24th & York Streets, formerly the York Theater).

"Apertura Modotti" is about the celebrated photographer and activist Tina Modotti. Having worked in the late 20s and early 30s in the social realist style that would later be extolled in the work of Dorothea Lange, Modotti has finally taken her place as an extraordinary first generation modernist photographer.

Directed by Amy Mueller, the show opens Sat., April 21 and runs through May 20. All shows are at 8 p.m. Previews, \$22 Wed., \$24 on Thurs. and Sun, and \$28 Fri. and Sat. \$18/\$20 for students and seniors. Tickets for opening night, Sat., April 21 are \$50, which includes a post-performance reception. Tickets available at City Box office, 415 392-4400, or go to [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org)



EASTER



## Performing Arts Roundup

### "Rancho Grande" Comes To Thick House

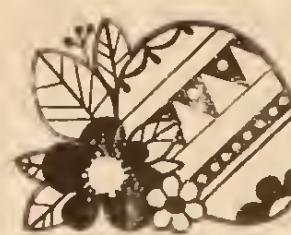
**Thick Description**, returns to Potrero Hill with the California premiere of local playwright Eugenie Chan's "Rancho Grande," April 14 - May 13 at the Thick House, 1695 - 18th St.

The play explores a Chinese American girl's life as she moves from girlhood to womanhood, wrestles with her family and cultural heritage and dreams of becoming a cowgirl and roping in the mystery of love and desire.

Previews run April 14-15 (in which Thick Description will PAY audience members \$1.00 to attend). Opening Night is Monday, April 16. Tickets are \$10-\$20, sliding scale. Performances run Thursday through Sundays at 8 p.m. For tickets and more info, call 401-8081 or go to [www.thickdescription.org](http://www.thickdescription.org).

### Jewish Music at Traveling Jewish Theatre

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents Jewish Music Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on April 18 and May 16. The series showcases nationally recognized innovators of new Jewish music and some of the foremost performers of traditional and period music forms. Tickets are \$12. A Traveling Jewish Theatre is located at 470 Florida St. (between 17th and Mariposa Sts.) For tickets/info call 399-1809.



### "Shooting Porn" at the Victoria Theatre

Porn superstars Blake Harper and Jason Branch, winners of numerous awards, bring celluloid to life on stage in Ronnie Larsen's comedy "Shooting Porn." Based on the documentary film by the same name, the play focuses on the gay erotic film business as a workplace and examines the making of gay male porn flicks from the inside.

For the San Francisco engagement, "Shooting Porn" features Blake Harper, and Jason Branch along with other members of the original cast including Ronnie Larsen, Gino Colbert, Gabriel Macen and San Francisco's own Steve Robertson.

"Shooting Porn" is at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 - 16th St. (@BART), for two weeks only from April 11-22. Performances are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for all shows Wednesday and Thursday and \$30 for all shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Special priority seating is available in the first five rows for \$5 more per ticket. For tickets and info, call TicketWeb at (510) 601-8932 or go to [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). Warning: Contains Nudity and Strong Language.

ODC/San Francisco dancers, pictured (l to r): Tammy Chabowski, Khamla Somphanh and Brian Fisher.

### ODC Celebrates 30th Year

ODC/San Francisco celebrates its 30th anniversary season "Dancing Downtown 2001" at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts April 4-22. The three-week season offers five world premieres by ODC's award winning choreographers and six outstanding repertory favorites. Season music includes Mozart, Mark O'Connor/Yo-Yo Ma/Edgar Meyer, Zap Mama, legendary blues artist Dr. John, Philip Glass and live performances by the Cypress String Quartet playing a new work by composer Jay Cloidt.

ODC/San Francisco opens its high profile 30th anniversary season with a spectacular Opening Night Gala Celebration on Wednesday, April 4. The evening begins with a benefactor dinner followed by a special performance at Yerba Buena for the Arts and a post-performance celebration in the SF Museum of Modern Art Atrium. For reservations, call the Gala box office at 978-2787.

### Dance at SomArts Theatre



Flyaway Productions and Dancer's Group present "Maybe Grief is a Good Bird Flying Low," at SomArts Theater, 934 Brannan St. (bet. 8th and 9th), April 6 - 22, 8 p.m. This dance program, directed by Jo Kreiter, features Christine Chen, Krista DeNio, Patricia P. Jiron, Rachel Lincoln, Rachel Shaw and Dominique Zeltzman, with music by Carla Kohlstedt. Cost of admission is \$18. For reservations/information call 934-1070.

Elizabeth Gorelik photo



On Saturday, April 7 at 2 p.m., parents and kids will not want to miss a special Family Matinee performance of ODC Artistic Director Brenda Way's playful quintet "John Somebody" and premieres of KT Nelson's "How to Track a Hurricane," a witty theatrical piece for a trio of dancers, and Way's "24 Exposures," set to a suite of pieces from the O'Connor/Ma/Meyer Appalachian recordings. The performance is followed by a curtain talk with the performers. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 16 and under. ODC will also offer a special mid-week noon (12 p.m.) performance on Wednesday, April 18. All seats \$10.

On April 15, at 7 p.m., an informal cafe atmosphere is the setting for ODC's presentation of the wildly popular Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos Dance Company. Tickets are \$10 general; \$14 reserved.

For more information on the April schedule and tickets, call 978-2787, or go to [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com).

The Potrero Street Names Restoration

# The Demise of Serpentine Ave. Creates Potrero Ave. Extension

By Lester Zeidman

Potrero Avenue is over 100 feet wide. At rush hour, that's six lanes of heavy freeway-bound traffic, frequently backed up. In the 1850's, Potrero was one of the widest streets in San Francisco—laid out, apparently, with a presumption that it would someday accommodate just that much traffic. In the 1880's, the traffic on Potrero Ave. was mainly bound for the City and County Hospital at Potrero and Nevada Streets, the precursor to San Francisco General Hospital. So it was strange even back then to see such a wide street like Potrero Avenue come to a dead stop just past Yolo Street (25th) at a narrow, little known street called Serpentine.

Serpentine Avenue ran along the north bank of Precita Creek as it flowed towards the Islais Channel. This creek existed along the southern part of Potrero Hill and was also known as Islais Creek. As the flat land of the Mission filled in with people and property, Army Street was laid out where the creek ran and conformed to the layout of the Mission and Potrero street plats. Serpentine Avenue ran a crooked path somewhat parallel to Army Street beginning at

Mission Street and continuing between Army and 26th Street until it met Utah Street and the serpentine rock of Potrero Hill.

Some paths became streets just because people used them. In the 1880s, some streets that weren't yet named existed on maps. But some streets suffered a terrible fate. Streets away from the center of the city, streets that no one wanted to maintain were simply expunged.

In the very early days of San Francisco, if the city maintained the street in front of your property, you got the bill. If your property tax bill was in arrears, you could pretty much forget about anyone laying down planks in the street in front of your property. You were, as they said so aptly back then, stuck in the mud.

It was on March 16, 1878 that Serpentine Avenue was expunged from the official streets of San Francisco by an act of state legislature. Most streets were either added or removed by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors but Serpentine Avenue would be incorporated back into private property and required a somewhat more emphatic demise.

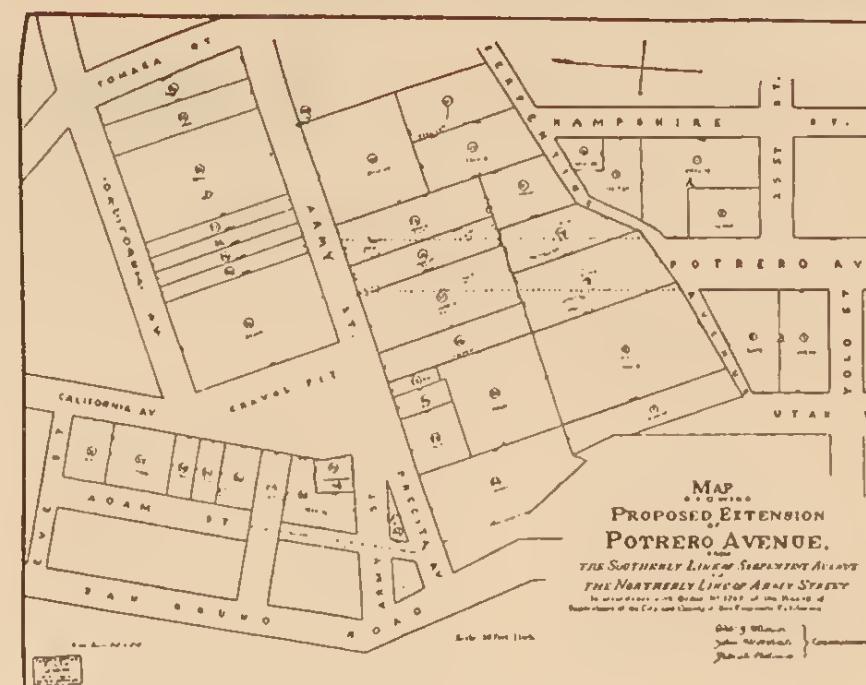
But streets don't disappear overnight and Serpentine Avenue persisted beyond the point of bureaucratic extinction. It was narrow and unfinished and it was the street where most of the streets of the Mission District from Capp Street to Utah Street met their end. The property between Serpentine Avenue and Army Street was all private property and the City needed to take control of it if the streets were to continue through to Army Street. In 1883, the Board resolved to extend Bryant Street from Serpentine Avenue to Army Street for the construction of a sewer. At that time, land acquisition cost \$2,875.00.

In April of 1881, Samuel Bloom won a judgment in a suit against San Francisco due to the fact that the sewer on Potrero Ave. had a tendency to overflow and damage his property. He was paid \$2,829.70 from surplus funds two years later. But the money did little to mitigate a real problem, which Bloom waited more than 10 more years for the city to fix. In 1890, the City built a new brick sewer on Army Street with a connection to the Bay for \$178,297.37. Well it didn't take long for Bloom to recognize that the Potrero Sewer that was unloading itself onto his property needed a better place to flow. So on February 20, 1893, Samuel Bloom filed a petition to the Board of Supervisors urging the closure of the Potrero sewer or its extension and connection to the Army Street sewer.

"The [Potrero] sewer is a menace to the health of the community and the eminent approach of cholera requires that some speedy action should be taken by the proper authorities," he wrote. They really knew how to write threatening letters back then and its eloquence would fit right in today. Basically, Bloom threatened in no uncertain terms to haul them before a judge and sue each and every one of them again. Since he had done it once before Bloom was probably looking forward to the income but this time the board finally took action.

In order to pay for the land, the Board formed a district representing the property owners who would directly benefit from the extension and assess each one in accordance with their proximity to the Potrero Avenue. It was here that the Board figured a way to make the money flow back from Bloom. On May 29, 1893, The Board of Supervisors resolved to acquire the lands by eminent domain.

## EXTENDING POTRERO AVENUE - 1893



**More Trivia Questions Revealed!**

## History Gets Neglected on San Bruno Ave.

**By Lester Zeidman**

At some time during the 1880's, a group of individuals who were quite proud at having the foresight to create the beginnings of one of the finest urban parks in the country, gathered to commemorate their particular moment in history. They performed an act that they knew would stand the test of time. They went to Tyler Street and renamed it Golden Gate Avenue. Today commuters whiz down that street with scant recognition of the history that street name represents, the opening of Golden Gate Park.

And so it was for the proud citizens who gave the streets of Potrero Hill the names of states of the Union and the counties of California in celebration of California's statehood in 1850. This was an act of pride in being part of an exceptional historical event -- a pride that manifested itself in naming streets to reflect just how historical an event it was. It was a great moment in history - bestowed on a small hill on the other side of Mission Bay.

But as San Francisco grew, there were a lot of streets to name. East Street was aptly named because of its location on the eastern side of town. As the bay filled in, streets had to catch up to the wharves and piers of the thriving port. East Street was where you went in the 1890's to embark on your travels. Today we go to The Embarcadero which means "wharf" in Spanish.

There was not much history reflected in the naming of Railroad Avenue. If you traveled over Long Bridge, to Kentucky Street on the south side of Mission Bay in the 1870's, you were probably moving cargo off-loaded from ships in China Basin. At the time, railroad companies were given this for railbeds that would connect San Francisco to the rest of the country.

To the dismay of the Post Office, there were a number of streets named Railroad Avenue. There seemed to be a certain amount of confusion related to delivering mail addressed to Railroad Avenue. So it was in 1882 that Railroad Avenue from Islais Creek to Silver Avenue became known as Barneveld Street, and Railroad Avenue from Mareno Street to Delaware Street became Palmetto Ave.

It wasn't the Post Office that doomed the last Railroad Avenue in San Francisco. Having one contiguous street that traversed the length of the City prompted the renaming of Kentucky Street and Railroad Avenue to Third Street, now the major thoroughfare between Highway 101, the industrial areas of the Bayview Hunters Point and downtown.

San Bruno Road as it was known in the 1880s, connected the southern parts of San Francisco and the peninsula as a shortcut from the better-established El Camino Real. But the topography of Potrero Hill provided north-bound travelers on San Bruno Road the choice of turning right onto Colusa Street or left to Precita or Army Street. Certainly you could have continued straight up Nebraska Street, but after a long journey, even the horses didn't want to go up that hill. Nebraska Street was the street that connected directly to San Bruno Road as it came around Bernal Heights. It was the nature of the bureaucrats looking for that contiguous road that prompted the mapmakers to rename Nebraska Street and San Bruno Road on January 5, 1895 to San Bruno Avenue. But it was the nature of the travelers, when faced with an obstacle as large as Potrero Hill, to do what the travelers before them did. They cut across and around Potrero Hill on an unmarked, unnamed path that ran a diagonal from San Bruno and Nebraska, across Vermont and Utah Streets, all the way to Nevada Street (23rd) and Potrero Avenue.

So the bureaucrats didn't have a clue, the mapmakers were just trying to sell maps, and the travelers got to their destination without a street. All of which calls into question the rationale for changing the name of Nebraska Street to San Bruno Avenue. It wasn't really necessary. No one paid attention to loss of the historical street name bestowed on a neighborhood in celebration of an event that has had ramifications around the world: The entrance into the Union of the great state of California.

Henceforth, when the east/west streets of Potrero Hill are restored to their appropriate names, the great state of Nebraska will once again be honored by running in a straight line between Napa Street and Solano Street. This is the history of Potrero Hill and we would like to have it back.

## ZOO HOSTS REPTILE FESTIVAL



On Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the San Francisco Zoo will host its first ever Reptile Festival, with a full day of reptile-themed activities and close-up encounters with a varied array of lizards, snakes, tortoises and turtles. This event coincides with the Chinese New Year of the Snake, and marks the formal debut of the Zoo's new 12½ foot long green anaconda in its new underwater quarters at the South American Tropical Forest building. The special day also features Wildlife Theater presentations, information booths hosted by conservation organizations, crafts and musical entertainment. The S.F. Zoo is located on Sloat Blvd. at the Pacific Ocean. For more information call 753-7080, or web site [www.sfzoo.org](http://www.sfzoo.org).



## A MOTHER'S HEART

"A Mother's Heart," written and directed by best-selling author and playwright Joyce Carol Thomas, opens at the Marsh Theatre, 1062 Valencia St. on April 6. This two-woman, three character play stars the Bay Area's and Potrero Hill's talented Marie Henderson, and New York City's multiple-award winning, off-Broadway actress Marjorie Johnson.

The drama celebrates the bittersweet relationship between a devoted mother and her sometimes rebellious daughter. The younger woman's need to discover her world and herself tests mother and daughter loyalty to its limits.

Henderson has appeared in more than a dozen performances in and around the Bay Area, and has had a varied career in theatre and film. In 1999 she won the Dean Goodman Choice Award. In her day job she counsels young adults in a substance abuse day treatment program at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

"A Mother's Heart" previews are April 4 and 5 at 8 p.m., and the play runs Wed - Sun, through April 28, with a matinee performance at 3 p.m. on April 8. Tickets are "pay-what-you-can" on Wednesday; \$14-\$17 Thursday and Sunday, and \$17-\$22 Friday and Saturday. For tickets and information call 826-8750.

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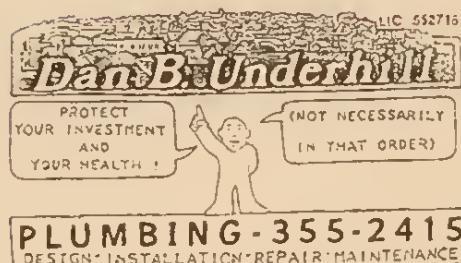
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## Childhood Passions Get Recycled Into Adult Careers

When Bill Oliver was a boy growing up in Texas, he says he couldn't decide between being a forest ranger or a musician—as he puts it, between Smokey the Bear and Chuck Berry. In love with the outdoors, Oliver was also a budding guitarist, mostly self-taught, with "just enough chords to learn songs."

As a kid he would take his guitar to a muddy ditch and pretend he was sitting by a Louisiana swamp, or along the Mississippi river, and imagine himself an entertainer, like one of his idols, Texas rockabilly star Johnny Horton. He never considered putting his passions for music and the outdoors together, until a friend suggested a trip down the Mississippi.

"When I was 19, I spent the summer of 1968 rafting down the river with a songwriter friend of mine," Oliver said. "It was literally a passage for both of us into writing and singing folk music about environmental issues." Inspired by protest singers of the era like Pete Seeger, and earlier folk pioneers like Woody Guthrie, he started writing his own songs.

Since then, Oliver has performed his tunes to audiences of kids and adults from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico. From a song urging folks not to release balloons, to a ditty succinctly titled "Bring Your Own Bag," Oliver packs a direct environmental message into a catchy package.

Hundreds of miles away, and a couple of decades after Bill Oliver's Mississippi river trip, young Doug Nolan faced a similar dilemma. Born in Queens, New York, Nolan's love of the outdoors took him to the University of Vermont and a degree in environmental studies. But almost by accident he developed a talent that changed his life.

The lanky redhead learned to juggle in high school from the 1970's bestseller, "Juggling for the Complete Klutz." Nolan says he became obsessed with juggling, spending two or three hours a day practicing in college. After graduation in 1988, as an instructor with Outward Bound, his fellow campers thought Nolan was nuts for carrying around all his juggling equipment—including clubs, balls and devil sticks—on grueling wilderness expeditions. He taught juggling to anyone who showed the slightest interest. But it never occurred to Nolan that juggling was anything but a sideline to his real calling, environmental issues.

"It was funny for me," Nolan said. "I saw them as two different things. I could never combine the two different groups and two different sides of my personality."

Like Oliver, Nolan got a crucial nudge from a friend—a fellow juggling fanatic from college. Why not move to the Bay Area, the friend suggested, and use their skills to convey an environmental message to children? Nolan was all for the adventure, but never considered it a career. But as he began performing for kids, Nolan found his two passions were falling into place.

"Juggling is a great way to capture and hold student's attention, and use comedy and physicality to bring a message that otherwise could be very dry and technical and makes it really fun," Nolan said. That's why, ten years later, Nolan is still performing for delighted students at school assemblies from Pacifica to Concord, who get a giggle from his antics, along with information they can carry home about protecting the environment.

A comical gameshow gets kids thinking about ways to save water. A trio of high flying rings illustrates how to reduce, reuse and recycle. Balanced on a six-foot unicycle, Nolan brings a down-to-earth message with his routines.

Now, Nolan of Pacifica, and Austin, Texas resident Oliver are getting together for a series of performances, under the auspices of San Francisco's Solid Waste Management Program and Public Utilities Commission's Water Pollution Prevention Program. They say the timing couldn't be better. These agencies have created an environmental tent called 'The Most Important Show on Earth,' full of ideas for San Franciscans young and old, to protect this special place. This spring, alongside the environmental "Big Top" you will find Doug and Bill performing at street fairs and schools across San Francisco.

As Nolan puts it, "Three quarters of a million people live here, generating roughly five pounds of trash a day. It's a powerful image for kids to realize they create five millions pounds of trash every day. That kind of thing, that's the kind of message we can put into the show."

"California is the source of so many fabulous places—shorelines, mountaintops, watersheds," Oliver said. "California leads in environmental protection in a lot of ways—but it has to. Because the pressure is on."

Bill Oliver and Doug Nolan will perform at the Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, on April 21 and 22, Cinco de Mayo on May 5, and Carnaval on May 26, and 27.

— Maria T. Baird, Public Outreach Coordinator, S.F. Solid Waste Management Program.

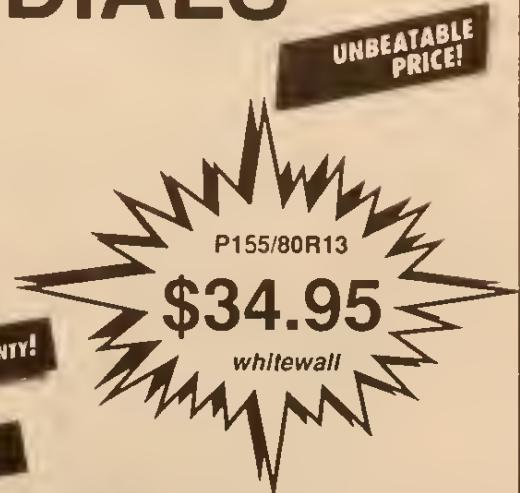
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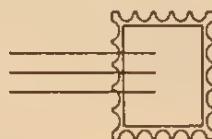
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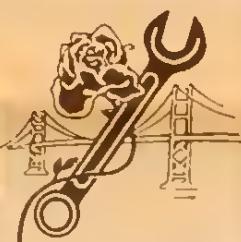
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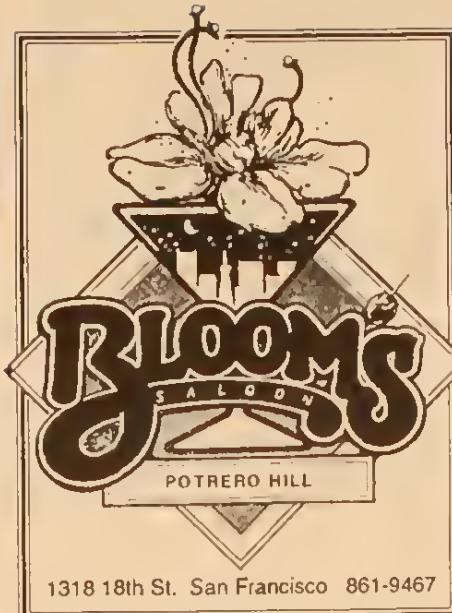
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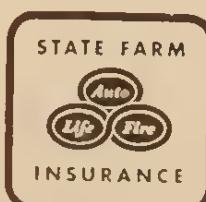
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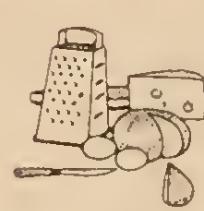
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